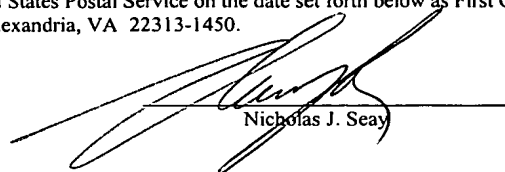


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Nicholas J. Seay

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yuping Ambuel
Thomas R. Van Oosbree
Mark R. McCormick
Robert M. Mierendorf

Date: May 8, 2003

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Serial No.: 09/848,449

Group Art Unit: 1651

Filed: 05/03/2001

Examiner: Herbert J. Lilling

For: IMPROVED E. COLI EXTRACT
FOR PROTEIN SYNTHESIS

File No.: 700399.90126

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P O Box 1450
Alexandra, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 8, 2002 in the file of the above-identified application, the applicants respond as follows: